

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-07 DOEE-00
ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-05
SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 /131 W
-----053137 310318Z /14/46

O R 301520Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9850
AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 1484

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 4)

E.O. 11652: GDSM LARJ: PERP, ENRG, ETRD, NG, KS
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SALE OF URANIUM YELLOWCAKE TO SOUTH KOREA

1. DURING RECEPTION FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VERNON JOHNSON AT RESIDENCE FONMIN, REFERRING TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR SOUTH KOREA FRIDAY, MARCH 31, ASKED OUR VIEWS ON SALE OF URANIUM TO KOREA. I TOLD HIM THAT I KNEW OF NO INSTANCE THAT UNITED STATES HAD OBJECTED TO SALE OF URANIUM BUT OUR POLICIES WERE DIRECTED TO NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND CONSEQUENTLY WE HAVE OBJECTED TO THE SALE OF BREEDER REACTORS.

2. LATER, AS FONMIN LEFT, HE TOLD ME THAT HE WISHED TO TALK ABOUT THIS FURTHER (PRESUMABLY BEFORE HE LEAVES ON FRIDAY).

3. COMMFDT: TWICE THE CHIEF OF STATE, LT. COL. SEYNI KOUNTCHE HAS SUGGESTED THAT NIGER WOULD LIKE TO BE HELPFUL TO THE UNITED STATES. IT IS PROBABLY THAT THIS
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UNPRECEDENTED SOLICITATION OF U.S. VIEWS ABOUT POTENTIAL NIGER SALE OF URANIUM IS THE CALCULATED EXTENSION OF THE CHIEF OF STATE'S COMMENT TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VERNON JOHNSON THAT NIGER WOULD LIKE TO FIND A WAY TO RECIPROCATE U.S. ASSISTANCE. AMZHSYY WE HAVE NO SOLID INFORMATION, WE SURMISE THAT SOUTH KOREA IS MAKING A SERIOUS PROPOSAL TO NIGER. THIS COULD EXPALIN

THE SUDDEN TRIP TO NIAMEY BY THE NON-RESIDENT SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR DURING A WEEKEND RECENTLY AND HIS IMMEDIATE RECEPTION BY THE CHIEF OF STATE. ALSO, IT MIGHT EXPLAIN THE HASTY PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO SOUTH KOREA BY THE NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES. ANDRE WRIGHT. I SUSPECT A SOUTH KOREAN EFFORT TO OUTBID THE NORTH KOREANS WHO SENT A DELEGATION HERE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.

4. THE GON IS UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE OF U.S. PROBLEMS WITH ITS KOREAN CONNECTION AND IS PROBABLY ANXIOUS TO HAVE ASSURANCE THAT COMMERCIAL INVOLVEMENT WITH SOUTH KOREA WILL NOT INCUR U.S. DISPLEASURE. GON MAY FEAR THAT THE APPEARANCE OF EVIL COULD TAINT THE PROSPECTIVE C-130 PURCHASE, CONSEQUENTLY THEY ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT OUR GUIDANCE.

A. U.S. FINDS NOTHING INHERENTLY OBJECTIONABLE IN THE SALE OF YELLOWCAKE URANIUM. THIS MATERIAL HAS A VARIETY OF PEACEFUL AND BENEFICIAL USES.

B. UNITED STATES DOES OBJECT TO THE SALE OF BREEDER REACTORS AND THE PRESERVATION OF USE OF FISSIONABLE MATERIAL FOR THE PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES.

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C. UNITED STATES URGES ALL NATIONS TO SIGN AND SUPPORT THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.

6. PLEASE ADVISE BY PRIORITY CABLE. JAMES

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Message Attributes

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Litigation History:
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